



## HURRICANE UPDATE

This Hurricane Update is a supplement to the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's regular e-mail newsletter, the SVM Update, which will be sent out next week.



### DEAN APPLAUDS EFFORTS OF FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

As I've said many times in the past, the strength of our program is our people, and they went above and beyond the call following Hurricane Gustav. Our faculty, staff and students showed tremendous dedication to our collective programs in the days following the storm. The effort and dedication of our facilities maintenance personnel, janitorial staff, support staff, faculty, and students that attended to the core responsibilities of the School has not gone unnoticed. The quality of our personnel here in the School has been central to who we are and what we accomplish. Facing the challenges they each dealt with outside of the School as well as the less than ideal work environment within the School following Hurricane Gustav makes their commitment to our programs even more impressive.

Dean Peter F. Haynes

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### LSU VETERINARY TEACHING HOSPITAL CARRIES ON AFTER HURRICANE GUSTAV

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's Veterinary Teaching Hospital remained open for emergency service following Hurricane Gustav. After the storm struck the Louisiana coast, the SVM's Veterinary Teaching Hospital treated about 100 pets, not including a large number of baby squirrels and a number of baby birds treated by the SVM's Wildlife Hospital. "We saw some pets with injuries from the storm, such as cuts from storm debris and other animal bites, among others," said Steven Winkler, hospital director. "We also saw a number of animals from referral veterinarians because so many of those clinicians were not able to open their offices, or their phone lines were out and the clients were not able to reach their veterinarians. Of course, we were happy to be able to assist our local veterinarians and return the animals to their local clinicians' care as soon as their offices were open."



The Veterinary Teaching Hospital lost power along with the rest of the University but was able to run on generator power (though without air conditioning). Winkler added, "The faculty, interns, residents, staff and students really stepped up to the task, even without air conditioning, and they did a fabulous job. We saw close to 100 baby squirrels brought into the hospital, and the students on duty greeted every one of them as if that squirrel was a personal pet of the person bringing that animal in to us. We examined them and cared for them until we could get them to wildlife rehabilitators, who will then release them back to the wild."

The LSU Large Animal Hospital received a few storm-related cases, however, the equine industry as a whole was very proactive in carrying out evacuations and placing their animals out of harm's way. The key concerns to be on the watch for now will be issues brought on by the increase of standing water, namely encephalitis cases caused by the increase in mosquito populations and hoof problems related to horses being in standing water for a prolonged period of time.

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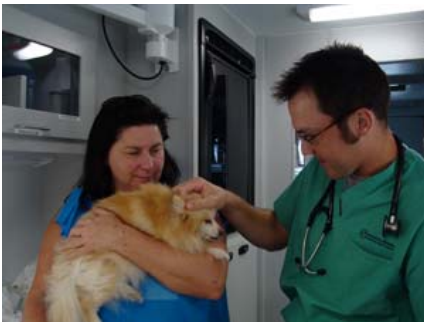


## LSU'S MOBILE EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT PROVIDES VETERINARY CARE FOR HARD-HIT AREAS

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine's emergency response unit was mobilized following Hurricane Gustav to provide veterinary care to areas affected by the storm. The Louisiana State Animal Response Team called to request the unit to help with injured and sick animals in Houma, La. The local veterinary clinics in that area were not operational, but local veterinarians rotated the hours of operation, along with LSU faculty.



Ironically, the mobile unit's first emergency duty took place in the parking lot at the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine. After the SVM was forced to rely on generator power, which provided basic necessities but no air conditioning, the hospital's surgery suite could not be used because of the build-up of condensation on the floors. Surgeries were performed in the air-conditioned surgery area in the mobile unit.



In June 2006, the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR) established the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery Emergency Response Unit Fund. In response to the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the LSU SVM partnered with the AKC CAR to develop a mobile response unit to respond to any natural disaster in which small animals are left injured or abandoned.

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## LSU EQUINE CLINIC OPENS HOTLINE AND DELIVERS HAY

In the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, the LSU School of Veterinary Medicine and the Equine Health Studies Program developed a call center in an effort to respond to the potential needs of horse owners in southern Louisiana. This helpline functioned from Thursday, September 4 through Sunday, September 7. About 10 faculty, staff, students and family members monitored the

helpline, which received approximately 200 calls. Questions included where to evacuate horse, where and how to get horses tested for Coggins, where to get support for equine owners with fence and structural damage, help with injured horses or horses that needed to be rescued, information on equine boarding facilities, where to get hay, etc.

On September 10, hay was delivered to 24 horses located at the Citrus Land levee region south of New Orleans. The levee breach was further damaged from Hurricane Gustav and continued to flood area pastures but was finally repaired. This hay/feed relief was a combined effort of the following partnerships: the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association Equine Committee Foundation, the LSU Equine Health Studies Program, the Louisiana State Animal Response Team, and the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry. The LSU EHSP is a partner with LSART, the operational arm of the animal response in state-level emergencies such as Hurricane Gustav.

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## STUDENTS PROVIDE SUPPORT AT PARISH PICK-UP POINTS

Some veterinary students participated in a Louisiana State Animal Response Team training session in order to volunteer to help with animal evacuations prior to Hurricane Gustav. The students then volunteered at parish pick up points to help people evacuating with their pets. The volunteers registered the pets, which were allowed to travel with their owners on the bus if the pet was small enough to sit on the owner's lap. If the animal could not (i.e., exotic, large dog or multiple cats), the pet was registered, kenneled and placed in a refrigerated truck or in the chaser van that would follow the truck to Shreveport. "When the 18-wheeler was ready to go, we had maybe 24 animals on the truck and a few in the van," said Holly Brown (Class of 2010). "I followed the 18-wheeler as far as Baton Rouge, because contraflow would have been implemented by the time we were ready to come back. We stopped and checked on the animals every two hours." The truck and van made it safely to Shreveport, and all of the animals have been reunited with their owners, according to the Louisiana Department of Agriculture.

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## SUPPORTING THE LSU SVM

**Hurricanes turn the country's attention to the care of animals before and after the storm**

The Spirit of Veterinary Medicine Hurricane Relief Fund was established at LSU in 2005 on the heels of Hurricane Katrina in honor of "Spirit," a much-loved dog belonging to the fund's lead donor. The purpose of the fund is to support animals that are affected by hurricanes and other natural disasters. The

incredible generosity of thousands of people supported the multiple expenses incurred caring for these displaced animals, including transportation to shelters around the country and subsequent transportation so that they could be reunited with their owners.

The LSU School of Veterinary Medicine has developed a shelter medicine program that provides services to shelters that were seriously damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In addition, the program provides shelter management advice, implementation, and individual animal care at shelters in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, Plaquemines, Jefferson, and St. Bernard.

Activities involving the Spirit Fund are vast and continually moving forward. What was put in place to provide for animals in the face of a catastrophic natural disaster has now found long-term usefulness that we to continue to build upon. It is vital for our own work to progress in this realm and it is crucial to the animals that depend on us throughout the year and particularly during times of crisis.

**Connections**, a bronze statue to honor the people who support animals in need, which is epitomized by the rescue, shelter, and reunification of animals in the aftermath of hurricanes, will be dedicated on Thursday, November 6 at 3:00 p.m. in the School of Veterinary Medicine's Serenity Garden near the entrance to the Small Animal Clinic.



To learn about other ways that you can help the SVM, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 225-578-9826 or visit our website at [www.vetmed.lsu.edu](http://www.vetmed.lsu.edu) and select "Support the LSU SVM."

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